

Remarks

By this amendment claim 6 is cancelled and claims 1, 7 and 10 have been amended. Claims 1 through 16 are pending, no new matter has been entered, and reconsideration thereof is requested.

It is noted with appreciation that the Examiner indicated that Claim 16 is allowed.

The Examiner indicated that claims 6 to 15 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim (claim 1), but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, the Applicants have cancelled claim 6 and amended claim 1 to include all the limitations of claim 6 which should now place claim 1 in condition for allowance. All remaining claims that depend on claim 1, namely, claims 2-5 and 7-15 should likewise be allowable.

Conclusion

Based on the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all the claims active in the subject patent application are in condition for allowance and that the application should be passed to issuance.

The Examiner is urged to call the undersigned at the number listed below if, in the Examiner's opinion, such a phone conference would aid in furthering the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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